

REMARKS**1. Summary of Office Action**

Claim 1-26 are now pending in this action, of which, claims 1, 9, 20 and 24 are independent. In the non-final office action dated September 21, 2005, the Examiner allowed claims 1-8 and 20-26; identified claims 10, 11, 16, 18, and 19 as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and rejected claims 9, 12-15, and 17. In addition, the Examiner objected to claim 17 as having a typographical informality, and objected to figures 12 and 13 for having typographical errors in the reference signs.

Amended claims and drawings have been filed with this paper to comply with the Examiner's requests.

2. Figures

Figures 12 and 13 have been amended to include proper reference signs. Replacement sheets are included herewith.

3. Claim Objections

Claim 17 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "the nonmagnetic conducting layer."

4. Prior Art Rejections

One aspect of the presently claimed invention is directed to a method and apparatus for correcting a hysteresis loop bias in a memory element, such as an MRAM element. Allowed claim 1, for instance includes the step of "applying a bias current to a word line of the memory device to impose a bias field on a magnetoresistive element for centering a hysteresis loop of the magnetoresistive element." Independent claim 9 has now been amended to also include a

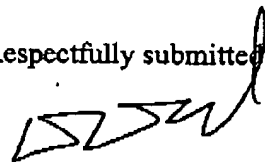
limitation that requires that "the bias current [be] configured to impose a bias field on the magnetoresistive element for centering a hysteresis loop of the magnetoresistive element."

The examiner rejected claim 9 as anticipated by Nahas (U.S. Patent No. 6,859,388). However, Nahas is directed to "counteracting stray magnetic fields" generated by other circuit elements. (Nahas, Abstract, Fig. 2). Nahas does not consider the problem of hysteresis bias adjustment within an MRAM element or the newly added limitation of claim 9. As such, Nahas cannot anticipate claim 9 as amended or any of its dependent claims (claims 10-19).

5. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests prompt favorable reconsideration. If there are any matters that may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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